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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2954  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
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RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1622  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 3677  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 3070  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISHKEK 000038

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/21/2020

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS  
IN JAIL

REF: BISHKEK 5

Classified By: Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller, for Reasons 1.4 (b) and  
(d).

11. (SBU) On January 11, the Bishkek Garrison Military Court sentenced former Minister of Defense, Presidential candidate, and political insider, Ismail Isakov, to eight years in prison at a maximum security prison. Isakov was convicted of corruption, including illegally transferring to his son an apartment that belonged to the Ministry of Defense. Isakov has publicly stated that his arrest was politically motivated. He has said that his problems began after he resigned as Secretary of the Security Council and told President Bakiyev that there were problems in the President's entourage and with the country's domestic and foreign policy. Following his resignation, Isakov joined the political opposition and ran for President in the July 2009 election.

12. (C) COMMENT: Opposition members have said to us that while some of the specific charges against Isakov were likely true, they were also petty and did not justify a prison term. However, Isakov's long prison sentence is not surprising as he represented perhaps the strongest rival to President Bakiyev. Many observers believe that Isakov, as Defense Minister, was one of the least corrupt members of the Bakiyev government. In addition, Isakov's image, that of a strong military leader, and his charisma could have posed a threat to President Bakiyev.  
GFOELLER